

cancers are explained by known risk factors. Though studies have explored the effect of isolated environmental factors, including diet, pesticides, and electromagnetic fields, there is little conclusive evidence or consensus in the scientific community on how the environment impacts breast cancer. Scientists have also proposed a number of other potential factors which have yet to be formally studied.

Though many experts accept that the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, the extent of that role has not been determined. More research is needed to determine the precise impact of the environment on this disease. This bill authorizes a research program at the National Institutes of Health to do just this.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud to stand as one of well over 150 cosponsors of this bipartisan legislation. Because we don't know what causes breast cancer, or how to prevent it, as our Nation's leaders we have a duty to the American public to support legislation that will aid in the fight to understand and combat this devastating disease. I thank all of my colleagues who have already signed on to this bill, and I urge those who have not to, in honor of Mother's Day, join me in addressing this vital women's health concern.

**GUILTY PLEA BY PURDUE FREDERICK COMPANY AND TOP EXECUTIVES TO MISBRANDING OXYCONTIN**

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, 12 years ago a landmark painkilling medicine hit the doorstep of doctor's offices and local pharmacies with the promise of less addiction and less likelihood for abuse. This prescription drug provided a sustained-release mechanism with up to 12 hours of pain relief for a sore thumb or a back ache. This drug was billed as a "safe" alternative without the painful withdrawal symptoms of other opioids and enjoyed an FDA designation of "moderate-to-severe" pain, making it wildly popular among unsuspecting doctors and pharmacists. OxyContin seemed to be the answer for real pain relief.

Today, we know these were lies. The manufacturer of OxyContin, Purdue Pharma, spent \$500 million marketing this deception and deceit. What began in the boardroom of Purdue Pharma executives has spread like wildfire into the living rooms, bathrooms and classrooms of families seeking pain relief. From 1996 to 2001, the number of oxycodone-related deaths nationwide increased 400 percent while the annual number of OxyContin prescriptions increased nearly 20-fold. Over the same time period, OxyContin brought in \$2.8 billion in revenue for Purdue Pharma, at one point accounting for 90 percent of the company's sales. Purdue heavily promoted OxyContin to unsuspecting doctors, many of whom had little training in the treatment of serious pain or in recognizing signs of drug abuse in patients.

To this profit-making scheme came the unsuspecting victim of eastern Kentucky. The birthplace of bluegrass music and the rich

story of Daniel Boone became ground zero in the war against the illegal diversion of prescription drugs. Appalachia Kentucky is home to a proud people, skilled in the crafts and arts, family-oriented and hardworking. It is also home to an aging population, war veterans and retirees, tough foresters and miners, living with above average unemployment and below average access to healthcare and medical information.

This was a perfect mix for an epidemic. On a per capita basis, our drugstores, hospitals, and other legal outlets receive more prescription pain-killers than anywhere in the nation. And at one time, my region accounted for 25 percent of all OxyContin overdoses in the country. Meanwhile, the death-toll continued to rise, topping out at nearly 500 Oxy-related deaths nationwide. Lives like Sheriff Sam Catron, one of the finest law enforcement officials in Kentucky I've ever known, who was cut short by the bullet of an OxyContin addict.

Today, the President, Chief Legal Officer, and Chief Medical Officer for the Purdue Frederick Company have plead guilty in Federal court to charges of misbranding OxyContin and will pay over \$634 million in damages. This is tremendous news. I have railed against the marketing practices of Purdue in the Appropriations Committee for nearly 7 years and I am pleased to see justice served. I applaud the work of the U.S. Attorneys from the Western District of Virginia and the Virginia Attorney General for their work to bring these criminals to justice.

This landmark case is a wake-up call for the entire pharmaceutical industry, and a warning that deceptive, destructive marketing practices will not be tolerated. The ill-gotten gains and greed of drug profits will hopefully never again be prioritized over the health-care needs of our citizens. Though this sad chapter has finally closed, we must continue to be ever vigilant against the scourge of illegal drugs in our communities. With wise and robust investments in state-run prescription monitoring programs, law enforcement personnel, substance-abuse counselors, and educators, we can win this war; regain strength in our communities, and save lives.

**HONORING UPPER BUCKS HEALTHY COMMUNITIES HEALTHY YOUTH COALITION**

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of the Upper Bucks Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Coalition.

We are all aware of the dangerous rise in teen substance abuse. It is therefore reassuring to see area youth stepping up to help each other avoid the mistakes too many have made.

The members of the Upper Bucks Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Coalition have taken it upon themselves work against teen substance and alcohol abuse.

The success of their marketing campaigns speaks for itself. Madam Speaker, they can claim credit for 15 percent reduction in tobacco use among high school seniors, a 5

percent decrease in alcohol use among high school sophomores and a 44 percent decline in tobacco use among eighth-graders. These numbers demonstrate the effectiveness of the teen-to-teen strategy that they have implemented to protect their peers—our children.

The students in the Coalition began the school year passing out thousands of small buttons with the letters OMG—a common teenage online abbreviation. Next, they distributed hundreds of t-shirts and decals saying "2outta3." Finally, they handed out more than 1,100 t-shirts and 5,000 wrist bands reading "2outta3 don't drink," completing the message that two-out-of-three Upper Bucks teenagers don't drink.

The Coalition members have also enlisted local sports coaches to train them to focus on the incorporation of youth development strategies into coaching.

Local businesses are also joining the fight. The area Burger King franchise and other local stores have raised millions of dollars in support of Project CARE, which trains adults working with young people and awards higher-education scholarships to students formerly with alcohol, drug, or mental health problems.

I am not the first to recognize their great work. The White House National Drug Control Strategy cited the Coalition as an example for groups across the United States to follow.

Madam Speaker, these students have demonstrated great initiative in working to help their peers. On behalf of the entire 8th District of Pennsylvania, I would like to congratulate them for their efforts and their success, and urge others to use these remarkable young people as an example for true community service.

**HONORING THE SERVICE OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS NICHOLAS RIEHL**

**HON. STEVE KAGEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Nicholas Riehl.

Private First Class Nicholas "Nic" Riehl, from Shiocton, Wisconsin died at age 21 on April 27, 2007, while serving his country in the U.S. Army near Fallujah, Iraq.

Last Saturday, his sister, Roselyn, had this to say to the several thousand in attendance:

When I think of my big brother Nic, many things come to mind. But coward was not one. So when he joined the army there wasn't going to be a way to stop him. His life was a long, long, road, with many turns, some for good, some for bad; but those little bumps in the road made Nic who he was. If he wanted something he would have to work for it, and he did with such pride. It was truly amazing, also he would do it all with a smile, but not just any smile, he has one of those smiles you can see with your eyes closed.

I know I was truly blessed to have him in my life, better yet as a brother. He was there to always lend me his words of wisdom, a helping hand, or to bring my ego back to the ground, and simply prove to me once again that he was the best. There were many things he attempted to teach me like guitar, how to be a "Riehl" leader on the basketball court, and never give up and also, to stay true to yourself.